Remarks

The Office Action mailed May 14, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24-26 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 stand rejected. Claims 25 and 26 have been newly added. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, and 24 have been amended. No new matter has been added. No fees are due for the newly added claims.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the Applicants in telephonic interviews on August 4, 2004 and August 10, 2004. During the interview on August 4, Applicant stated to the Examiner that a support plate as recited in Claim 1 is not disclosed by a ventilation opening 38 disclosed in Dochterman (U.S. Patent No. 4,186,319). The Examiner indicated that he would discuss the above-referenced application with his supervisor and call the Applicant. During the interview on August 10, Claim 1 was discussed in light of Dochterman and the Examiner stated that Claim 1 recited a box. The Examiner also stated during the interview on August 10 that he will prepare an Examiner's interview summary. No agreement was reached with respect to Claim 1.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 14-17, 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dochterman is respectfully traversed.

Dochterman describes motor (10) including a cylindrical stator shell (column 3, lines 12-16). The cylindrical stator shell is formed by a housing or shell (12) whose ends are closed by a pair of end shields or end frames (14 and 16), which serve to support a rotor shaft (18) which has a rotor secured thereto for rotation therewith (column 3, lines 12-16). Each end shield or end frame includes a circular element or portion (23) having a central rearwardly extending portion(24) constituting a sleeve bearing accommodating hub (column 3, lines 33-36, Figure 3). The portion (24) establishes a hub for a sleeve bearing (17) press-fit therein (column 3, lines 41-42). The circular element is also provided with a central annular portion (30) surrounding the central rearwardly extending cylindrical portion (column 3, lines 44-47). Four radial spokes (32) extend from the central annular portion (column 3, lines 47-48).

The spokes are oriented at substantially 90 degrees with respect to each other and lead to a circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion (34) (column 3, lines 48-50). The central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion are substantially coplanar and define four wedge shaped areas (36) (column 3, lines 51-53). During operation of the motor, a flow of cooling medium (e.g., air) moves through ventilation openings (38) and cools windings and bearing system of the motor (column 3, lines 64-68).

Claim 1 recites a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine comprising "a base plate; and a bracket support assembly extending from said base plate, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate, a support member extending from said base plate and between said first end plate and said second end plate, a first support plate extending from said first end plate to said second end plate and extending from said support member to a side plate, said support member connected to said first support plate forming an enclosure, and said side plate extending from said base plate to said first support plate."

Dochterman does not describe or suggest a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Dochterman does not describe or suggest a bracket assembly including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. Rather, Dochterman describes an end shield that includes a hub, a central annular portion surrounding the hub, radial spokes that extend from the central annular portion and lead to a circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion, four wedge-shaped areas defined by the central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion, and ventilation openings through which a flow of cooling medium cools windings and bearing system of a motor. Accordingly, Dochterman does not describe or suggest a bracket assembly including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the

base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a the plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman.

Claims 2-4, 9 and 11 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-4, 9 and 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that Claims 2-4, 9 and 11 likewise are patentable over Dochterman.

Claim 14 recites a dynamoelectric machine comprising "a frame; a stator disposed in said frame and comprising a stator bore; a rotor within said stator bore and comprising a rotor shaft; a bearing assembly for supporting said rotor shaft and facilitating rotational movement thereof; and a bracket assembly coupled to said frame and receiving said rotor shaft, said bracket assembly comprising a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate, a support member extending from said base plate and between said first end plate and said second end plate, a first support plate extending from said first end plate to said second end plate and extending from said support member to a side plate, said support member connected to said first support plate forming an enclosure, and said side plate extending from said base plate to said first support plate."

Dochterman does not describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine as recited in Claim 14. Specifically, Dochterman does not describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a bracket assembly having a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. Rather, Dochterman describe an end shield that includes a hub,

a central annular portion surrounding the hub, radial spokes that extend from the central annular portion and lead to a circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion, four wedge-shaped areas defined by the central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion, and ventilation openings through which a flow of cooling medium cools windings and bearing system of a motor. Accordingly, Dochterman does not describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a bracket assembly having a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman.

Claims 15-17, 19 and 22 depend from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of Claims 15-17, 19 and 22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicant submits that Claims 15-17, 19 and 22 likewise are patentable over Dochterman.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 14-17, 19 and 22 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 18, 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,447) is respectfully traversed.

Dochterman is described above. Periyathamby et al. describe each bearing assembly (20, 22) that includes a sleeve bearing housing (66) and a sleeve bearing (68) supported within the bearing housing (column 7, lines 46-48, Figures 8-10). The bearing housing includes an annular base (70) and a plurality of arcuate mounting projections (72) extending from the base (column 7, lines 48-51). An internal dimension defined by the mounting projections is slightly greater than an internal bore (74) of the annular base and an outer dimension of the sleeve bearing thus providing a

slight gap or clearance between the sleeve bearing and the mounting projections (column 8, lines 1-6). A plurality of arcuate grooves (73)are formed in an outer surface of the annular base (column 8, lines 13-14).

Claims 5, 6, 8, 12 and 13 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1 which recites a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine comprising "a base plate; and a bracket support assembly extending from said base plate, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate, a support member extending from said base plate and between said first end plate and said second end plate, a first support plate extending from said first end plate to said second end plate and extending from said support member to a side plate, said support member connected to said first support plate forming an enclosure, and said side plate extending from said base plate to said first support plate."

Neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a bracket assembly including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. Rather, Dochterman describe an end shield that includes a hub, a central annular portion surrounding the hub, radial spokes that extend from the central annular portion and lead to a circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion, four wedge-shaped areas defined by the central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion, and ventilation openings through which a flow of cooling medium cools windings and bearing system of a motor. Periyathamby et al. describe a bearing housing that includes an annular base and a plurality of arcuate mounting projections extending from the base. The annular base has an internal bore. A slight gap forms between a sleeve bearing and the mounting projections. A plurality of arcuate grooves are

formed in an outer surface of the annular base. Accordingly, neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a bracket assembly including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby et al.

When the recitations of Claims 5, 6, 8, 12 and 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 5, 6, 8, 12 and 13 likewise are patentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby et al.

Claims 18, 21 and 24 depend on independent Claim 14 which recites a dynamoelectric machine comprising "a frame; a stator disposed in said frame and comprising a stator bore; a rotor within said stator bore and comprising a rotor shaft; a bearing assembly for supporting said rotor shaft and facilitating rotational movement thereof; and a bracket assembly coupled to said frame and receiving said rotor shaft, said bracket assembly comprising a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate, a support member extending from said base plate and between said first end plate and said second end plate, a first support plate extending from said first end plate to said second end plate and extending from said support member to a side plate, said support member connected to said first support plate forming an enclosure, and said side plate extending from said base plate to said first support plate."

Neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine as recited in Claim 14. Specifically, neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a bracket

assembly having a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. Rather, Dochterman describe an end shield that includes a hub, a central annular portion surrounding the hub, radial spokes that extend from the central annular portion and lead to a circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion, four wedge-shaped areas defined by the central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion, and ventilation openings through which a flow of cooling medium cools windings and bearing system of a motor. Periyathamby et al. describe a bearing housing that includes an annular base and a plurality of arcuate mounting projections extending from the base. The annular base has an internal bore. A slight gap forms between a sleeve bearing and the mounting projections. A plurality of arcuate grooves are formed in an outer surface of the annular base. Accordingly, neither Dochterman nor Periyathamby et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a bracket assembly having a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby et al.

When the recitations of Claims 18, 21 and 24 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 18, 21 and 24 likewise are patentable over Dochterman in view of Periyathamby et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 18, 21 and 24 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 7 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby et al. and further in view of Booth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,129,194) is respectfully traversed.

Dochterman and Periyathamby et al. are described above. Booth et al. describe an assembly (38) that may include a hub (64), a resiliently flexible spider (66), an armature disc (68), a counterweight (70), and a connector (72) (column 4, lines 10-14, Figure 1). The counterweight may be substantially C-shaped or arch-shaped and is disposed on a second side (93) of the spider (column 4, lines 65-67). The counterweight may assume a variety of shapes and sizes (column 4, line 67 – column 5, line 1). A radially inner portion (128) of a counterweight (124) is connected to the spider while a radially outer portion (130) of the counterweight is axially spaced from the spider (column 6, lines 30-33). A metal plug (142) may be encapsulated partially or fully within a plastic from which a counterweight (138) is made to increase a weight of a counterweight (138) (column 6, lines 59-63).

Claim 7 depends indirectly on independent Claim 1 which recites a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine comprising "a base plate; and a bracket support assembly extending from said base plate, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate, a support member extending from said base plate and between said first end plate and said second end plate, a first support plate extending from said first end plate to said second end plate and extending from said support member to a side plate, said support member connected to said first support plate forming an enclosure, and said side plate extending from said base plate to said first support plate."

None of Dochterman, Periyathamby et al., or Booth et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, none of Dochterman, Periyathamby et al., or Booth et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a bracket assembly including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending

from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. Rather, Dochterman describe an end shield that includes a hub, a central annular portion surrounding the hub, radial spokes that extend from the central annular portion and lead to a circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion, four wedge-shaped areas defined by the central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion, and ventilation openings through which a flow of cooling medium cools windings and bearing system of a motor. Periyathamby et al. describe a bearing housing that includes an annular base and a plurality of arcuate mounting projections extending from the base. The annular base has an internal bore. A slight gap forms between a sleeve bearing and the mounting projections. A plurality of arcuate grooves are formed in an outer surface of the annular base. Booth et al. describe a counterweight that may be substantially C-shaped or arch-shaped and is disposed on a second side of a spider. The counterweight may assume a variety of shapes and sizes. A counterweight has a radially inner portion that is connected to the spider and a radially outer portion that is axially spaced from the spider. A counterweight includes a metal plug encapsulated partially or fully within the counterweight. Accordingly, none of Dochterman, Periyathamby et al., or Booth et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a bracket assembly including a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby et al. and further in view of Booth et al.

When the recitations of Claim 7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 7 likewise is patentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby et al. and further in view of Booth et al.

Claim 20 depends indirectly on independent Claim 14 which recites a dynamoelectric machine comprising "a frame; a stator disposed in said frame and comprising a stator bore; a rotor within said stator bore and comprising a rotor shaft; a bearing assembly for supporting said rotor shaft and facilitating rotational movement thereof; and a bracket assembly coupled to said frame and receiving said rotor shaft, said bracket assembly comprising a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate extending from said base plate, a second end plate extending from said base plate, a support member extending from said base plate and between said first end plate and said second end plate, a first support plate extending from said first end plate to said second end plate and extending from said support member to a side plate, said support member connected to said first support plate forming an enclosure, and said side plate extending from said base plate to said first support plate."

None of Dochterman, Periyathamby et al., or Booth et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine as recited in Claim 14. Specifically, none of Dochterman, Periyathamby et al., or Booth et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a bracket assembly having a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. Rather, Dochterman describe an end shield that includes a hub, a central annular portion surrounding the hub, radial spokes that extend from the central annular portion and lead to a circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion, four wedge-shaped areas defined by the central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion, and ventilation openings through which a flow of cooling medium cools windings and bearing system of a motor. Periyathamby et al. describe a bearing housing that includes an annular base and a plurality of arcuate mounting projections extending from the base. The annular base has an internal bore. A slight gap forms between a sleeve bearing and the mounting projections. A plurality of

arcuate grooves are formed in an outer surface of the annular base. Booth et al. describe a counterweight that may be substantially C-shaped or arch-shaped and is disposed on a second side of a spider. The counterweight may assume a variety of shapes and sizes. A counterweight has a radially inner portion that is connected to the spider and a radially outer portion that is axially spaced from the spider. A counterweight includes a metal plug encapsulated partially or fully within the counterweight. Accordingly, none of Dochterman, Periyathamby et al., or Booth et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a dynamoelectric machine including a bracket assembly having a first end plate extending from the base plate, a second end plate extending from the base plate, a support member extending from the base plate and between the first end plate and the second end plate, a first support plate extending from the first end plate to the second end plate and extending from the support member to a side plate, the support member connected to the first support plate forming an enclosure, and the side plate extending from the base plate to the first support plate. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby et al. and further in view of Booth et al.

When the recitations of Claim 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 20 likewise is patentable over Dochterman and Periyathamby et al. and further in view of Booth et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 7 and 20 be withdrawn.

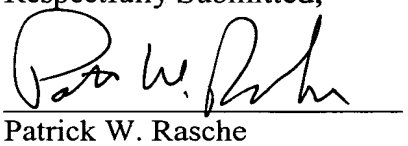
Newly added Claim 25 depends from independent Claim 1, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Dochterman, Periyathamby et al., or Booth et al, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest "wherein said enclosure includes a hollow space enclosed by said base plate, said first end plate, said second end plate, said support member, said first support plate, and said side plate, and said support member is curved" recited in Claim 25. Rather, Dochterman describe an end shield that includes a hub, a central annular portion surrounding the hub, radial spokes that extend from the central annular portion and lead to a

circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion, four wedge-shaped areas defined by the central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion, and ventilation openings through which a flow of cooling medium cools windings and bearing system of a motor. Periyathamby et al. describe a bearing housing that includes an annular base and a plurality of arcuate mounting projections extending from the base. The annular base has an internal bore. A slight gap forms between a sleeve bearing and the mounting projections. A plurality of arcuate grooves are formed in an outer surface of the annular base. Booth et al. describe a counterweight that may be substantially C-shaped or arch-shaped and is disposed on a second side of a spider. The counterweight may assume a variety of shapes and sizes. A counterweight has a radially inner portion that is connected to the spider and a radially outer portion that is axially spaced from the spider. A counterweight includes a metal plug encapsulated partially or fully within the counterweight. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 25 is also patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claim 26 depends from independent Claim 14, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Dochterman, Periyathamby et al., or Booth et al, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest "wherein said enclosure includes a hollow space enclosed by said base plate, said first end plate, said second end plate, said support member, said first support plate, and said side plate, and said support member is curved." Rather, Dochterman describe an end shield that includes a hub, a central annular portion surrounding the hub, radial spokes that extend from the central annular portion and lead to a circumferentially extending peripheral edge portion, four wedge-shaped areas defined by the central annular portion, the spokes and the peripheral edge portion, and ventilation openings through which a flow of cooling medium cools windings and bearing system of a motor. Periyathamby et al. describe a bearing housing that includes an annular base and a plurality of arcuate mounting projections extending from the base. The annular base has an internal bore. A slight gap forms between a sleeve bearing and the mounting projections. A plurality of arcuate grooves are formed in an outer surface of the annular base. Booth et al. describe a counterweight that may be substantially C-

shaped or arch-shaped and is disposed on a second side of a spider. The counterweight may assume a variety of shapes and sizes. A counterweight has a radially inner portion that is connected to the spider and a radially outer portion that is axially spaced from the spider. A counterweight includes a metal plug encapsulated partially or fully within the counterweight. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 26 is also patentable over the cited art. In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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